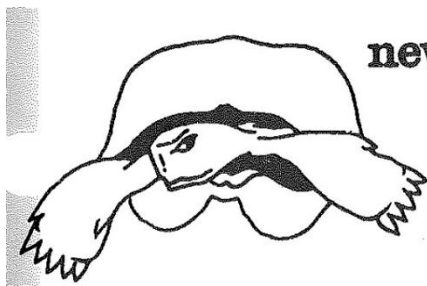




This is a reproduction of a previous Gopher Tortoise Council newsletter. This document has been altered from its original presentation so that information, news, and notable content can be preserved. Formatting, spelling, and grammar have been maintained to the extent possible. If possible, original images from the document have been included in these reproductions. The current and recent newsletters of the Gopher Tortoise Council, *The Tortoise Burrow*, can be found on the Council's website [here](#). Personal information, such as addresses and phone numbers have been redacted from this document.



newsletter of the GOPHER TORTOISE COUNCIL

Image: Original artwork and letterhead for the newsletter of the Gopher Tortoise Council

A VERY SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING

The second Annual Meeting of the Gopher Tortoise Council was hosted by Auburn University, Alabama, on 1 November 1980. This productive meeting, organized by Dr. Robert H. Mount, brought over 85 Council members, interested biologists, public and private land managers and governmental officials together to discuss the plight of the gopher tortoise, its associates, and its habitats. The results of this meeting are to be published by the GTC and the Florida State Museum soon. Those who registered for the meeting and GTC members in good standing will receive copies of the Proceedings when it is published. Additional copies will be available to registrants and GTC members at cost. Other interested persons and organizations will be charged a nominal price for it. For more information, please contact: RICHARD FRANZ, Florida State Museum, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 32611 (or call Dick at ###-###-####).

AS A RESULT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING IN AUBURN. . .

... Alabama adopts regulations protecting the Gopher Tortoise. On the 16th of March 1981, John M. McMillian Jr., the Commissioner of Alabama's Department of Conservation and Natural

Resources, promulgated Regulation 81-GF-9 under Alabama State Law. This regulation first designates the Gopher Tortoise as a game animal in the State, and then declares that “there is no open season during which the Gopher Tortoise may be lawfully hunted, taken, caught, captured or killed”. The rules take effect on 1 June 1981. This action is a giant step forward for both the State of Alabama and for the Gopher Tortoise.

... U.S. Forest Service contemplates action to reverse the Gopher Tortoise’s decline. According to a 11 February 1981 news release from Montgomery, AL, the U.S. Forest Service is currently considering actions to protect the Gopher Tortoise in the Conecuh National Forest. This 85,000 acre national forest is located in Covington County, Alabama, and Escambia County, Florida. Forest Supervisor Arthur D. Woody announced that the Forest Service is considering the issuance of orders applying to the Conecuh National Forest that would ban taking or possession of gophers and prohibit gassing burrows by rattlesnake hunters. The news release also includes the results of a recent survey of the tortoise population in this forest which showed that there are probably no more than 200 to 300 adult Gopher Tortoises remaining there. The release said that human exploitation is thought to be the chief threat to the population. Concern for the species found in tortoise burrows was also expressed in the release. The eastern indigo snake, the Florida pine snake, and the dusky gopher frog reportedly have declined in direct proportion to the decrease in the number of tortoises.

PAMPHLET ON GOPHER TORTOISES READY FOR PUBLICATION

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the GTC is preparing a pamphlet on the Gopher Tortoise and its problems. The purpose of the pamphlet is to introduce people to this unique reptile and to the activities of the GTC. Cathy Puckett has recently finished the final text and a Florida State Museum artist is currently designing the lay-out for the pamphlet. We hope to have it available for distribution by early summer. Members of the GTC will receive copies as soon as they become available.

INFREQUENT NEWSLETTERS

We apologize for the irregular appearance of the newsletter. Originally, we hoped to publish one quarterly but ... We will improve. DON’T DESPAIR.

This document was created and transcribed by Bradley O’Hanlon
March 2026